



Tideway

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

'RIVER OF LIBERTY'

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

**CONTEMPORARY
CULTURE
LIQUID
HISTORY**



FOREWORD

I am delighted that Historic England is working with Tideway and its partners to deliver this Heritage Interpretation Strategy. The Thames Tideway Tunnel will provide many new opportunities to better understand and appreciate our relationship with the Thames.



Duncan Wilson -
Chief Executive, Historic England

The Heritage Interpretation Strategy is a project-wide framework for the Thames Tideway Tunnel Project, prepared in consultation with Historic England. The Strategy sets out the historic and cultural themes that will inspire the project designers, artists, and engineers in delivering the new public realm, landscaping, art and infrastructure created by this project. This approach is key to getting the best for the public out of any new infrastructure project, and the Tideway Project is truly monumental.

While the project is challenging, it is an immensely exciting opportunity to build on the achievements and vision of Sir Joseph Bazalgette and those brave Victorian engineers who fought to build a cleaner, healthier London for the benefit of all its inhabitants. Bazalgette's sewer system, built between 1855 and 1865, used 318 million hand-laid bricks. It saw the construction of the Chelsea and Victoria embankments and the fabulous pumping stations at Chelsea, Greenwich, Crossness and Abbey Mills. The historic sewer system changed not just the quality of the environment, but the appearance and relationship of London to the Thames.

It was a triumph of Victorian ambition and engineering for the public good.

Running alongside and integrating with the historic system, the new 25km tunnel will stretch from Acton Storm Tanks in the west to Abbey Mills and on to Beckton Sewage Treatment Works in the east. The scheme is driven from 24 work sites, and will create four acres of new publically accessible land.

Taking the concept "River of Liberty" as its overarching theme, the Heritage Interpretation Strategy looks at the Thames as a rich and complex allegory, encompassing the delivery of London from the tyranny of disease, dynamic concepts of personal liberty, and individual stories which reflect the many communities and aspirations associated with the Thames.

The project will not only safeguard our precious environment. It will create new landscapes, artworks, and public experiences which reflect the river's rich history and reconnect us to the Thames, which is in many ways the lifeblood of our great capital. This strategy establishes a compelling cultural and historical narrative for the Tideway Tunnel Project.

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INTRODUCTION

Landing fish at Billingsgate Market 1881
© Illustrated London News Ltd/
Mary Evans Picture Library

HISTORY

The River Thames has always played a central role in the life of London; its rich and varied history encompasses all aspects of the city's life – economic, social, political and cultural. It has been a source of food and water, a commercial routeway, a crossing-point, a cultural conduit, an international port and a focus of political power.

The Thames's ability to reach and influence people's ways of life has been far-reaching and is fundamental to understanding its long-term cultural legacy and heritage value. This has been both positive and negative. While the

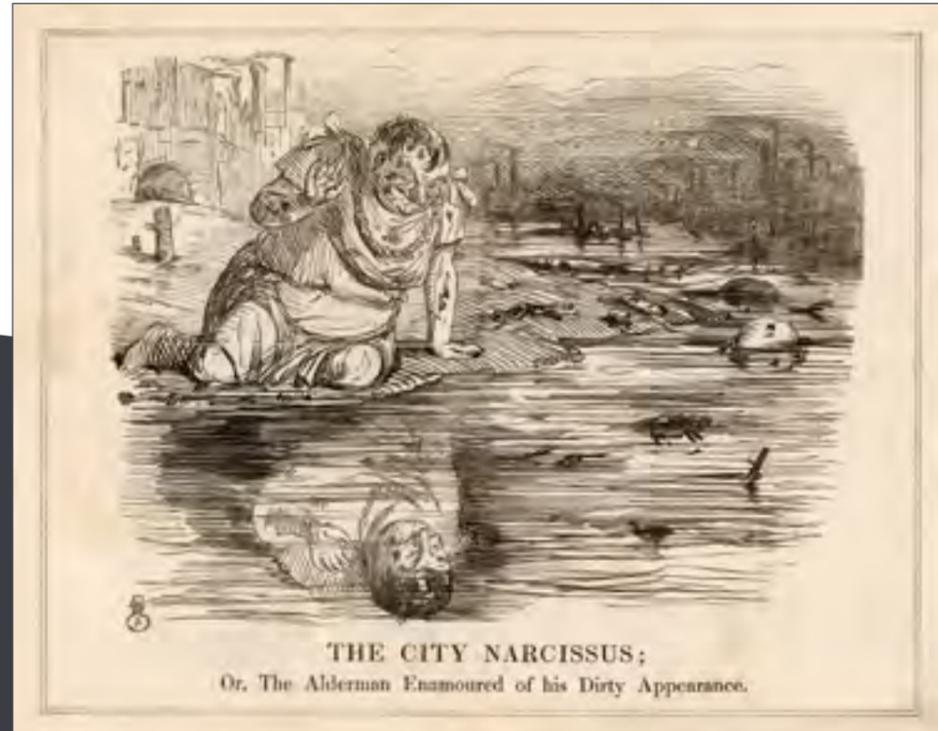
River has acted as a catalyst for the exponential growth of the city it has also not remained untouched and has suffered as a result, not least through its continued use as a conduit for the removal of waste products.



The Temple and River Thames 18th century
© Antiquarian Images/Mary Evans



Thames Waterman – about to row two women
across the River 1810 © Mary Evans Picture Library



The City Narcissus – London's authorities are accused of being complacent about the city's filth 1849 © Mary Evans Picture Library

The physical condition of the river deteriorated over time to a point in the 19th century where it assumed political importance and was perceived as an embodiment of the rotten heart of the body politic. Public health crises, in the form of cholera epidemics, were the catalyst for action and the introduction of the first Public Health Acts controlling the provision of water and the removal of waste. Fundamental to the success of these measures was the development and implementation of a drainage strategy designed to capture London's waste before it reached the Thames, while at the same time reconfiguring the banks of the river in order to use the flow to wash away any detritus that previously

would have been deposited by the sluggish movement of the water. The architect of this grand plan was the engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette, whose sewer system, embankments and bridges not only shaped the London we see today but are still required to perform the same job.

With continued growth London has outgrown this sewerage system. The capacities originally allowed for have been significantly exceeded with the result that the sewers overflow, discharging quantities of combined sewage into the River Thames. Sewage discharges have a significant impact on the ecology of the river, as well as posing risks to recreational

river users and introducing aesthetic pollution from waste products remaining on the foreshore. All of which contributes negatively on the health and wellbeing of the population and the city as a whole.

The Thames Tideway Tunnel aims to address this. Its implementation will ensure that the ecology of the Thames in London continues to improve along with economic and social benefits. For the most part the scale and engineering of this major infrastructure project will remain unseen to the public, but will be represented and announced through the creation of four acres of new or improved public realm, comprising landscaped permanent structures connecting the existing sewer to the tunnel.



Satire on the polluted water of London 1866 © Mary Evans Picture Library



Sir Joseph Bazalgette



16th century map of London and the River © Antiquarian Images / Mary Evans Picture Library



18th century map of London © Antiquarian Images / Mary Evans Picture Library



19th century map of London and the River © Antiquarian Images / Mary Evans Picture Library

What is unique about this work is that the design of the new public realm will be informed by the heritage of the River Thames and its riparian landscape. The approach to this is set out in the Tideway Heritage Interpretation Strategy. This document is a summary of the key points of that Strategy. The full document can be found at www.tideway.london/art-and-heritage



The Embankment and the River Thames 1940s
© Mary Evans Picture Library / Photo Union Collection



Combined Sewer Outlet

THAMES TIDEWAY TUNNEL

PROJECT OVERVIEW

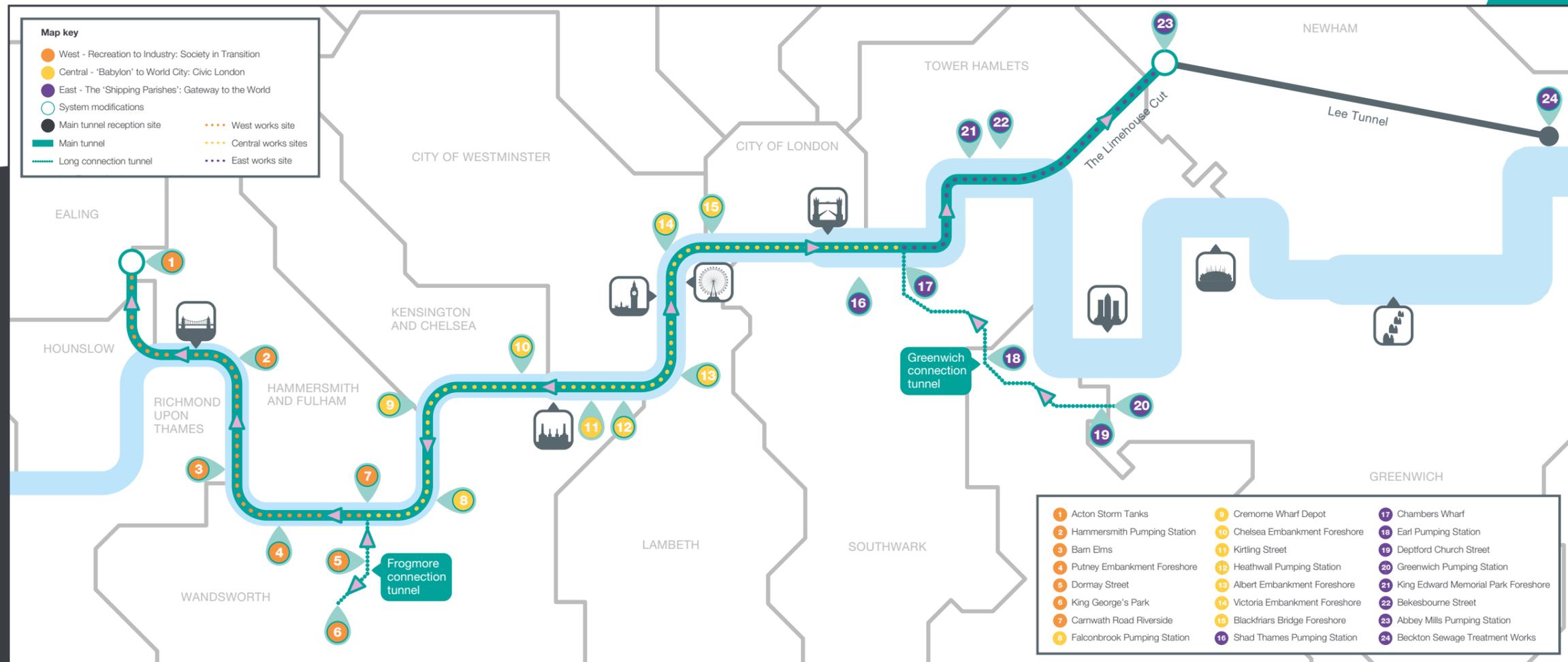
The Thames Tideway Tunnel project will extend London's sewerage system to cope with the demands of the city well into the 22nd century. It will comprise the construction of a 25km storage and transfer tunnel running up to 65m below the river. Starting in west London, the route of the tunnel generally follows the course of the River Thames to Limehouse where it then continues north-east to Abbey Mills Pumping Station. There it will connect to the Lee Tunnel, which will transfer the sewage to Beckton Sewage Treatment Works. Construction of the tunnel will take place from 24 worksites spread out along the route, with the majority of sites adjacent to the river. On completion of the works, Tideway will create new public realm with integrated artworks inspired by the history of the river and individual locales.

Tideway's vision is to build a new sewer for London to prevent the frequent pollution of the River Thames. It is not just to clean up the Thames but more excitingly to promote a change in the relationship between Londoners and their river: **Reconnecting London with the Thames.**

Tideway has established bold legacy objectives:

to protect and enhance the environment; to contribute to the rejuvenation of London's river economy; to provide a greater well-being for all and improved health for river users; to provide improved public realm and safer communities.

The commitment to delivering this vision is embedded throughout the project organisation. The capital and engagement projects and their target audiences have the potential to create a solid foundation upon which to enhance the River Thames as a defining landscape and cultural resource.





Gladys Clements water skiing on the Thames
© Mary Evans Picture Library/ Retrograph Collection

To ensure that the various project elements are perceived by the public as part of an overarching whole, as well as ensuring statutory obligations are complied with, a unified interpretive approach has been adopted. This is part of a comprehensive communications strategy that aims to create a clear brand identity and common voice for Tideway.

The Development Consent Order (DCO) that grants consent for the Tideway work requires a project-wide Heritage Interpretation Strategy (HIS) to be prepared in consultation with Historic England. The Interpretation Strategy examines the significance of the River Thames and sets out a framework within which interpretation can be developed and implemented. Tideway's overall vision, to reconnect London with the Thames, has informed the approach taken and the principles that have evolved.



Richmond



INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

A Steamboat excursion to Greenwich 1847
© Illustrated London News / Mary Evans Picture Library

PRINCIPLES, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The historic environment is part of our everyday lives. People cherish places, and the values of the historic environment lie in defining and enhancing that connection of people to a place. It provides roots and is intrinsic to our sense of place and cultural identity. It forges connections between people and the places where they live and visit, collectively telling the story of our shared past.

It is also a valuable tool to encourage wider involvement in our heritage and helps to ensure that everyone, both today and in the future, has the opportunity to discover their connection to those who have come before. In doing this, it can help tell us where we have come from and give us a sense of who we are.

Tideway has an unprecedented opportunity not only to create new quality urban realm in key riverside locations, but to create a physical link to the heritage of the Thames and its riparian environments through the integration of historic narratives within the design process.



Adaptation of Thomas B Kennington's The Toy Shop to advertise Peek Frean Biscuits 1891 © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

In delivering the Heritage Interpretation Strategy Tideway will be guided by the following principles

The historic environment of the River Thames is important: people value their historic environment; it enhances the quality of life and economic wellbeing.

The 19th century infrastructure created by the Metropolitan Board of Works and Sir Joseph Bazalgette are important historic assets: innovative engineering, public health benefits, new public realm, integrated city-wide planning and administration.

The historic environment is a tool to delivering a lasting legacy for Tideway: new public realm informed by the historic environment; public art inspired by the heritage of the sites.

At the heart of the project is people: benefitting from an improved environment, health, economy and public realm; engaging with the heritage of the River Thames.

Achievement through collaboration: within the project team, with artists, local authorities and local communities.

These principles have influenced the development of the key messages within the Interpretation Strategy. There are many stories that could be told about the Thames but the approach taken has been informed by historic narratives that explore aspects of the relationship between people, culture and the natural elemental quality of the river.

Purpose

The purpose of the Heritage Interpretation Strategy is to provide a framework that facilitates the engagement of audiences and makes connections that have long-term value. It will be used to inform the design of the new public realm and integrated artworks to create a clearly defined identity across the project. It will inform Tideway communications and contribute to education and engagement activities.

Aim

The aim of the Heritage Interpretation Strategy is to open new perceptions and perspectives of the river so that people are inspired to encounter the Thames and experience its history and influence on London's contemporary culture and ways of living.

Objectives

The Interpretation Strategy will:

- Communicate the River Thames's unique cultural heritage and awaken Londoners, and others, to its value to the city and to the lives they live, stimulating interest, experience and exploration;
- Respond to heritage knowledge and resources embedded in the river and woven into its architectural fabric, that engage and foster a sense of connection and cultural authenticity;
- Celebrate the achievements of the 19th century engineers responsible for the sewage infrastructure and explore its contribution to London as a World City;
- Encourage the creation of inspirational designs and memorable local places of sustainable and lasting cultural value;
- Sustain heritage authenticity by promoting the retention of extant features of interest wherever possible.



Floating swimming baths in the Thames at Charing Cross 1875
© Illustrated London News Ltd/ Mary Evans Picture Library



Boat race between Oxford & Harvard Universities 1869
© Mary Evans Picture Library / Museum of the City of New York

Audience

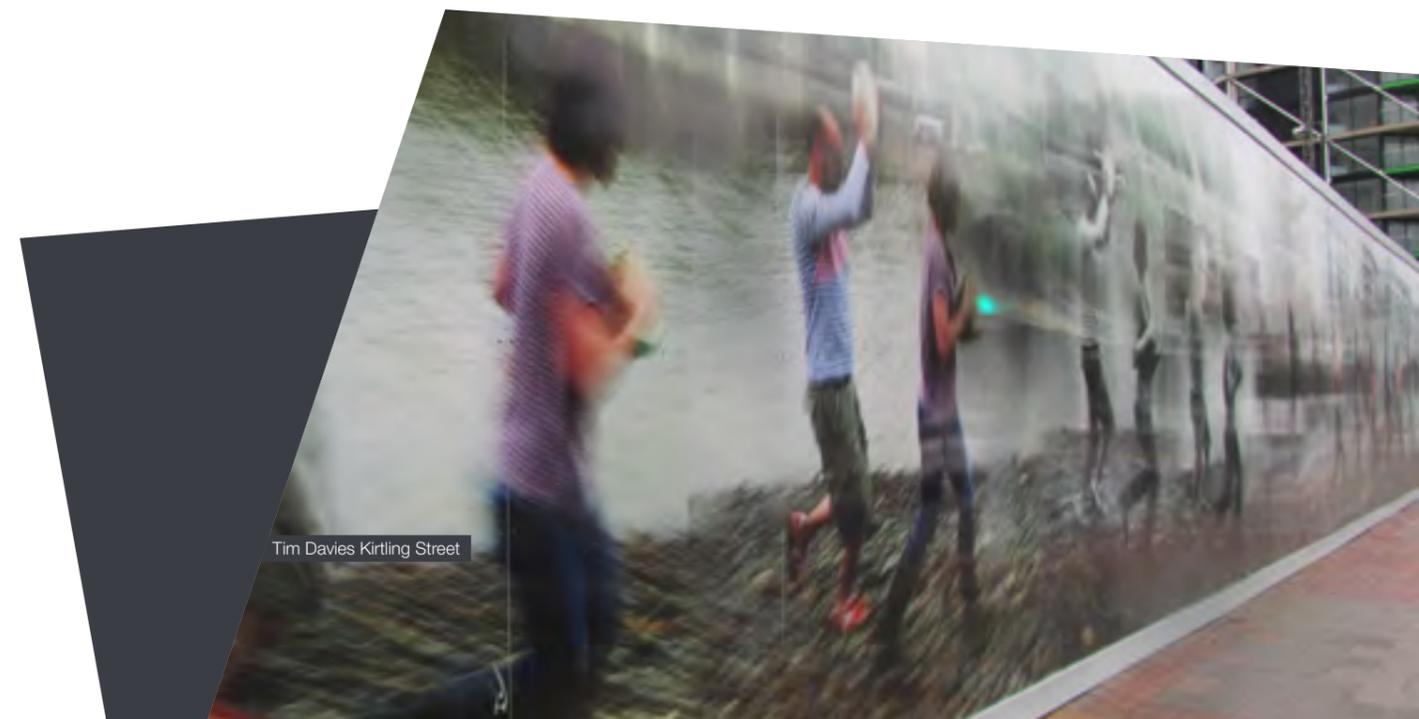
The Interpretation Strategy will, by its nature and application, have a number of diverse audiences:

- **Stakeholders** – the Strategy is Tideway's statement of intent and purpose in respect of its obligations under the DCO. It will be utilised by Local Authorities in determining applications for permanent works.
- **Contractors** – the application and development of the narratives within the Interpretation Strategy will inform the landscape design and art installations.
- **Local Communities** – engagement to build relationships and understanding; involvement in the development of artistic works and a local sense of ownership of the new public realm.

- **Functional users** – encourage walkers, cyclists, tourists to interact with the project and the new public realm.
- **Specialists** – heritage, art, ecology, engineering specialists who interact with the construction and the new public realm.
- **Education** – schools and colleges with whom Tideway work to develop educational resources.

As a consequence of this diversity it is recognised that different sections of the Heritage Interpretation Strategy will appeal to different audiences.

The commissioned artists and designers also have a key role in further defining local community audience groups, tailored to the specific site context.



Tim Davies Kirtling Street

A Cultural Manifesto for the Thames

The Heritage Interpretation Strategy will be delivered in accordance with a number of aspirations which together form a manifesto outlining how the cultural value of the river is recognised, in a manner that is both aspirational, accessible and inclusive. The manifesto is a high-level perspective on the cultural values of

the River Thames, which has informed the development of the interpretive framework and which will be taken into consideration in the development and delivery of the interpretive narratives.

The manifesto encourages recognition of a heritage of culture, diversity and the wide range of differing personal heritages held within the London populace.



East End beach on the River Thames 1930
© Mary Evans Picture Library



Asian Seamen in The Port of London 1908
© Museum of London



INTERPRETATION FRAMEWORK

“The St Lawrence is mere water. The Missouri muddy water. The Thames is liquid history”

John Burns

APPROACH

The Heritage Interpretation Strategy is supported by a wealth of historical and cultural research. This has explored local narratives and how they interrelate at various levels according to the heritage interest across the length of the river that corresponds to the main tunnel route. The analysis relies on widely available historical or archaeological data and insights revealed by examining the interconnected qualities of individual site narratives. It acknowledges the wide range of sources that have not been examined but leaves these open to further exploration.

The river, as a physical and cultural entity that connects interlocking local narratives, is, of itself, a very powerful heritage representation. It requires relatively simple treatment to reveal a depth of meanings, as implicit in the 19th/20th century radical Liberal politician and trade unionist John Burns description of the river:

‘The St Lawrence is mere water. The Missouri muddy water. The Thames is liquid history’.

To give structure to the multi-layered meanings, a tripartite framework has been adopted for the Interpretation Strategy that collates and presents heritage data and informs its use for interpretation and dissemination:

- i. Overarching interpretive theme: Liberty;
- ii. Thematic interpretive grouping based on geography: Cultural Meander;
- iii. Site specific interpretive theme: Site Narratives.

The design of landscape, art or other interpretive material will keep at its core the overarching theme but will focus on specific site narratives within the context of the relevant cultural meander.

CULTURAL MEANDERS AND THEIR LIBERTY SITES

A noticeable feature of the local site narratives is the degree to which they interlock, both spatially and temporally.

Correlations between sites have revealed sub-regional cultural narratives that account for apparent differences in the riverside heritage character of the west, central and east project sections, i.e. the cultural meanders:

- **West section** – ‘Recreation to industry: Society in transition’
- **Central section** – ‘Babylon to World City: Civic London’
- **East section** – ‘The Shipping Parishes: Gateway to the World’

The narrative patterns also highlight events during a particularly dynamic period of growth. Drawing on its late medieval roots, urban London is rapidly and repeatedly transformed throughout the 16th - 21st centuries. The Interpretation Strategy framework examines London and its role during this period in a distinctive British contribution to ideas and concepts from which modernism and globalisation emerge.



Brandenburg House; residence of Queen Caroline of Brunswick, estranged wife of George IV © Mary Evans Picture Library



'The Female Blondin' walking a high wire across the Thames from Battersea to Cremorne Gardens 1861 – © Illustrated London News Ltd/Mary Evans Picture Library

West – Recreation to Industry: Society in Transition

From the 11th to 17th centuries, established landholding families and institutions retained riverside estates close to the city. As well as providing a source of agricultural income, rural estates were expressions of vested authority and functioned as formalised pleasure grounds or recreational space. They provided a rural setting for social and political discourse close to, but beyond, the capital and its various ruling institutions.

Reflecting their proximity to London, Tideway locations at Hammersmith, Barn Elms, Putney and Chelsea provide contrasting heritage

perspectives on evolving ideas of democracy, governance and the balance of power between Crown and State over the period of the 16th-19th centuries. These associations reveal nuanced understandings of Liberty, featuring the suppression of individuals or non-ruling groups and severe judicial punishment, which is less apparent in more widely circulated or authorized narratives.

By the late 18th century much of the west riverside was a designed and idealised pastoral riverscape, surrounded by extensive areas of market gardens, a situation that was on the cusp of major change.

Initial social changes are reflected in the adaption of private pleasure grounds at Barnes, Chelsea and Vauxhall to commercial public attractions or sports venues catering for the recreational interests of the growing urban middle class from the neighbouring city. The riverine character of the west section of the Thames lent itself to such recreational and sporting uses. The first University Boat Race was held in 1829 and, other than when interrupted by war, the event has been held annually since 1856.



Battersea Power Station 1955-60
© John Gay/English Heritage.NMR/Mary Evans

Horticulture skills of Huguenot immigrants had a significant impact on sustainable urban expansion at this time. Immigrant communities supported themselves by improving riverside land for the commercial production of fresh vegetable products, metabolising urban waste in the process, and contributing a net benefit to the health and well-being of the wider urban population.

Modernity arrived with the transformational force of coal-powered steam technology in the 1840-60s. River access to the Port of London attracted substantial value and the historic riverside estates were sold as land values inflated. Traditional landowners took residence in the new fashionable squares in districts such as Mayfair and Belgravia, but communities associated with the city market gardens were displaced.

In a matter of decades industrialisation saw the emergence of urban manufacturing and chemical industries, with residential estates for factory workers in close proximity.

Other than pockets of riverside around Chelsea, Fulham and Putney, the former urban arcadia was largely restricted to stretches of riverside, that still survive upstream of Brentford and Barnes.

Large scale industrial transformation during the mid-19th century and early 20th century produced economic and social change that remade modern society along this western section of the Thames. This close juxtaposition of urban industry and residential estates had a bearing on social conditions. As economic development progressed, so too did processes of social improvement. This is reflected in site narratives at Carnwath Road Riverside and King George's Park. These provide a local illustration of socially progressive national policies that followed the first and second World Wars: replacing Poor Law support and late 19th century paternalistic philanthropy with a state sponsored housing, welfare and health system, with concomitant changes in urban planning.



Syon Park



Council Housing
© Daily Herald Archive/National Media Museum / Science & Society Picture Library

Central – ‘Babylon’ to World City: Civic London

Benjamin Disraeli described London as the ‘modern Babylon’ in his 1847 novel *Tancred, or The New Crusade*. This reflected contemporary perceptions of the metropolis as being riven by self-interest, inequality and decadence, but also a place attracting a myriad of people, languages and cultures.

To a degree Disraeli’s characterisation of the 19th century populace of London was a consequence of London’s adoption, from the late 17th century, of notions of free speech, freedom of conscience and a free press. These freedoms were

measured by modern terms, but by the mid-19th century London had assimilated a significant influx of religious refugees and political dissidents escaping persecution in neighbouring European states. London’s historic role as a destination of sanctuary persisted throughout the 17th-20th centuries.

Nineteenth century London, as described by Disraeli, was evidently struggling to achieve a credible system of governance. Demand for labour to support growth in the new industrial economy was also a major driver in population movement that tested London’s urban capacity at a time when investment in infrastructure was piecemeal at best.

The consequential environmental deterioration of the Thames, resulting in the ‘Great Stink’ of 1858, proved to be the political catalyst that produced the first pan-London civic entity since the medieval Corporation of London. The Metropolitan Board of Works was empowered to represent and act on behalf of the citizens of London, a role that was to challenge the long held interests of both the Corporation and the Crown. This pivotal political development, physically embodied in Bazalgette’s Thames Embankments, set London on course towards an open and politically engaged plural society.



Representation of the election of MPs for Westminster 1818
© Museum of London



Hogarth. The Four Times of the Day: Noon.
© Museum of London

The Metropolitan Board of Works' principal *raison d'être* was the construction of a metropolitan sewer system, through invested powers as the pan-London component of a two-tier metropolitan administration. It remains a model of state-led investment in public institutions and infrastructure with supporting democratic processes governing urban planning.

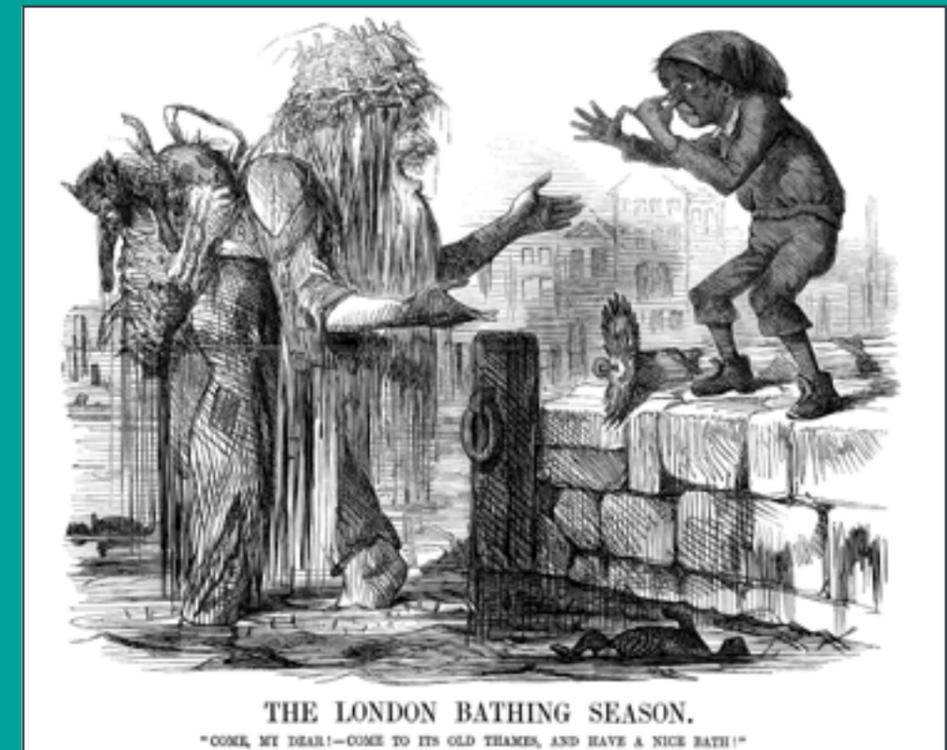
In due course the evident need for greater democratic accountability directly led to the elected London County Council. Although the MBW was constituted in such a way that its longevity was inevitably limited, it transformed London's built environment. The MBW had a major influence on London's status as a World City, contributing an historic and architectural legacy that contrasts with the variable market-driven urban design outcomes that characterise London's current urban planning practices.

This Victorian approach to what we now term 'nationally significant infrastructure' also provides an informative historic perspective on changes in the governance, procurement and investment in public urban infrastructure, as illustrated by the Tideway project itself. The Victorian MBW scheme, a response to an environmental crisis caused by over-exploitation of natural resources, was promoted solely by the UK national government and was funded from a tax on fossil fuel (i.e. coal levy).

In contrast, the Tideway scheme illustrates how national government now plans and responds to recognised national and transnational environmental interests, through novel and unique legislative and regulatory framework models that, by removing risks to investors, enable the private sector to develop nationally significant infrastructure.



The Home Secretary, Lord Morpeth casting pearls (the provisions of the Public Health Act) before swine (the City of London Aldermen) 1848 © Punch Limited



'The London Bathing Season' 1859 © Punch Limited



Essex Marshes

East – The ‘Shipping Parishes’: Gateway to the World

A pattern of medieval estuarine settlements and extensive surrounding areas of reclaimed medieval grazing marsh were transformed throughout the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, to be replaced by a dock economy. This was to have a fundamental influence on the physical, economic, ethnic and social structure of the area.

This period of transformation has significant Liberty implications, especially with regards to the management of environmental resources, but most significantly it relied on the control and exploitation of human capital.

London’s international maritime trading presence originated in the early medieval period. Bede, writing in the 730s AD referred to Saxon London as “a mart of many nations”. The maritime character of the Thames became increasingly dominant following Henry VIII’s appropriation and disposal of monastic riverside estates and the founding of Royal naval facilities at Deptford, Woolwich, Erith and Chatham. Soon after, commercial maritime trade is inextricably linked to the concept of ‘British Empire’. Initiated under Elizabeth I, this doctrine of aggressive global expansion of sovereignty, accompanied by colonisation and, in due course, enslavement, was pursued over the subsequent three centuries.

This had important consequences for the 16th, 17th and 18th century communities downstream of the City of London, at places such as Wapping, Ratcliff, Poplar, Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, Deptford and Greenwich. Within these rapidly expanding maritime communities there resided traditional notions of Liberty based on customary laws of the sea, codified at various times between the 12th and 16th centuries (e.g. the Rôles d’Oléron and the Wisby Sea Law). These private laws, pertaining to intra-territory sea trade and governing relations within the international seafaring community, include relatively progressive concepts of social democracy, which are largely absent from wider contemporary society until the mid-19th century. Consequently, values of independence and cultural co-existence were familiar within these communities.

In stark contrast, the trade in commodities from the 16th century, such as tobacco, sugar and coffee, positioned London’s port communities at the apex of a triangular trade structure, involving subjugation of indigenous people, appropriation of lands and property, mass forced slavery and transportation of Africans.

Behind the growth of London as a centre of finance and commerce from the 1700s onwards lay slavery in various forms. Any objective examination of issues of Liberty in relation to the Thames requires an open acknowledgement that the river formed a key element of the maritime infrastructure supporting a political and economic system that oppressed and abused human capital on a massive scale, to serve imperial ambitions, the interests of the state and, to varying and unequal degrees, the wealth and commercial interests of its citizens.

This extremely conflicted moral duality, of nascent forms of local social democracy juxtaposed with extreme and violent racial exploitation, resonates globally and continues to be

a factor that influences perspectives on London's heritage.

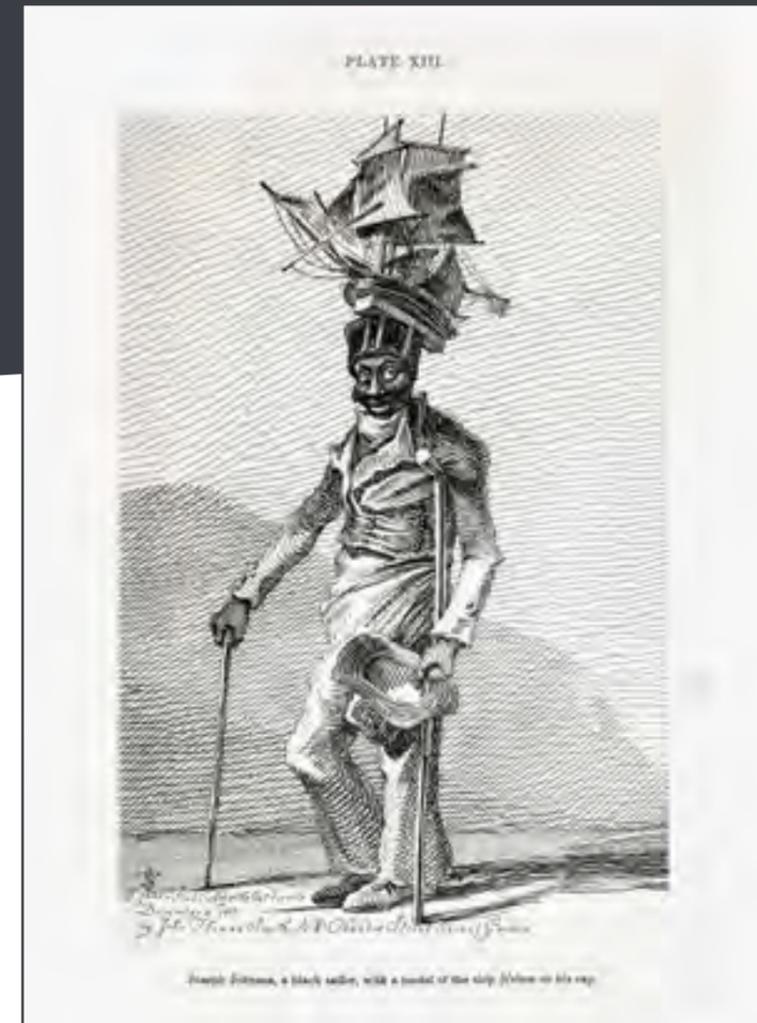
Although the fourth largest slave trading port, London's association with African slavery is not an openly explicit feature of the historic environment, even less so the indentured servitude of south-east Asian people involved in 17th century and later merchant shipping. But their imprint is not invisible and can be detected through a legacy of buildings and archaeological remains across London. Apart from the 19th century enclosed docks, surviving riverside evidence includes the remnants of former sugar, coffee and tobacco industries and trading institutions; associated secondary industries, including sugar-reliant food processing; and a range

of local supply craft industries. In addition, the substantial flow of capital associated with the triangulation trade ultimately accounted for the wealth of institutions and individuals that had, and to a degree continue, to have a significant effect on London's historic built environment.

From the 17th century the rapidly changing Thames expresses Britain's expanding colonial interests, as illustrated by the construction of shipyards by the East India Company and others. Thames-side wharves and warehouses, served by a maze of narrow streets, lined with tightly packed rows of workers' houses, were interspersed with larger and grander houses for merchants and dock officials.



Christmas! In the East; In the West. © Museum of London



Joseph Johnson, an ex-seaman street singer, 1874. Discharged from the Merchant Navy after he was wounded he was not eligible for a seaman's pension nor could he claim parish relief as he was born aboard. © Museum of London



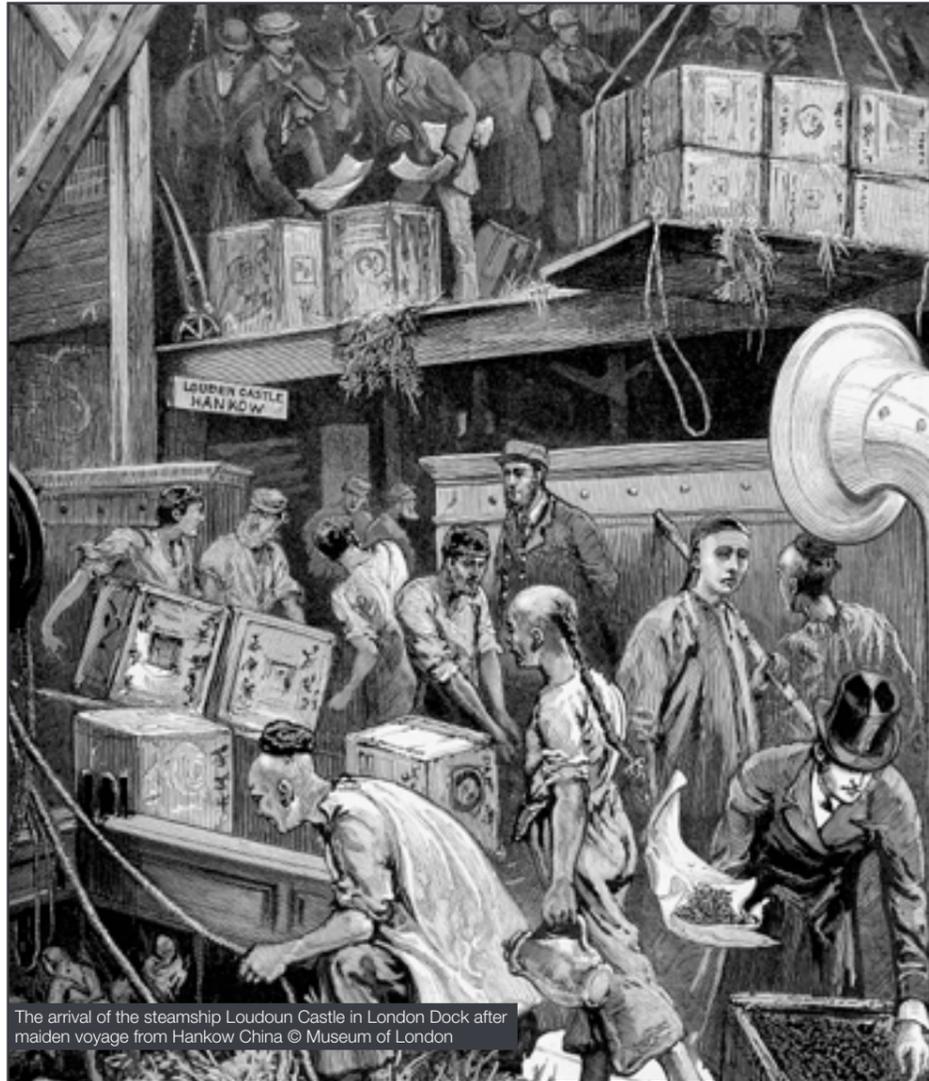
Copper anti-slavery coin, c.1750. The text around the coin read 'Am I not a man and a brother' and the text on the reverse reads 'May slavery & oppression cease throughout the world'

Increasing demand for port capacity throughout the 19th century was met by the construction of enclosed docks on either side of the Thames.

The Port of London dock economy was the hub of the British Empire, supported by diaspora drawn from across the British Isles and the Empire. This has had a fundamental influence on the physical, ethnic, cultural and socio-economic character of the area.

Whilst the Second World War saw a period of intense use, by the 1960s the inability of these parts of the Port of London to compete with the expanding container ports downstream rapidly became evident, leading to the erosion of social and economic traditions by the 1970s. Industrial decline had a significant effect on traditional social norms due to the loss of economic opportunity. However, it also created short-term situations that encouraged new and creative communities and groups.

Individual site narratives are detailed in the full Tideway Heritage Interpretation Strategy which can be found at www.tideway.london/art-and-heritage



The arrival of the steamship Loudoun Castle in London Dock after maiden voyage from Hankow China © Museum of London



The Chinese Freemason Society Limehouse © Daily Herald Archive/National Media Museum /Science & Society Picture Library



Sugar sampler
© PLA Collection / Museum of London



Cats Meat Man in an East End Street 1900
© Museum of London

HERITAGE DESIGN AND ENGAGEMENT

Sea Strata, John Maine
RA, Green Park Station.
© Billy Sawyers

IMPLEMENTATION

The Tideway Heritage Interpretation Strategy embodies a conversation about London's riparian heritage, culture and 'ways of living'. The approach to implementation aims to encourage inspirational and reflective, rather than commemorative, responses.

Landscape Design

In accordance with the Development Consent Order the Heritage Interpretation Strategy shall be implemented at site level through the landscaping details to be submitted for approval by the relevant planning authorities, or pursuant to a specific heritage interpretation requirement.

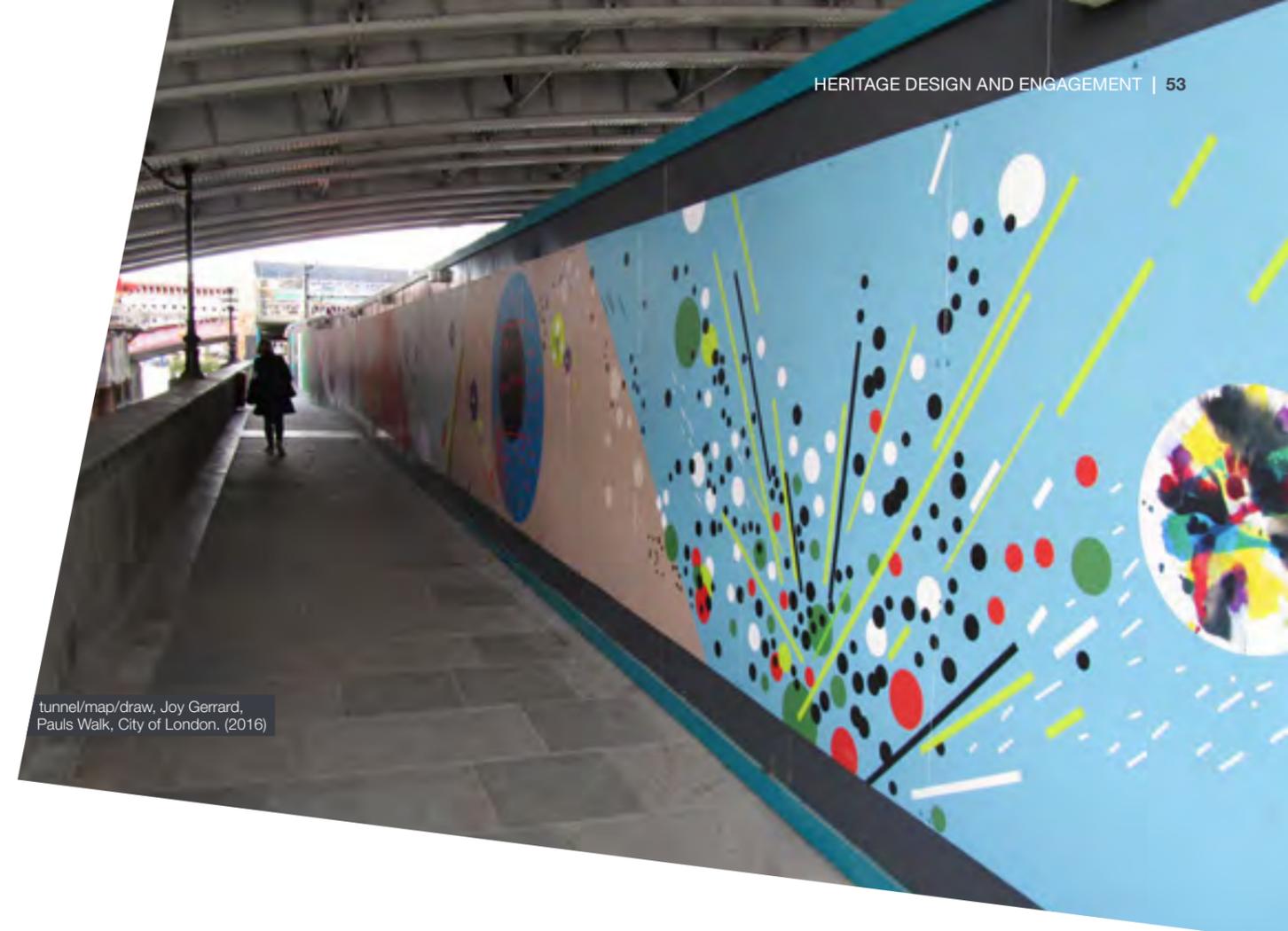
Design is thus critical to achieving the Interpretation Strategy aim and objectives. Heritage interpretation is an embedded element that adds a quality of authenticity to storytelling articulated through design. It shall be integrated from the outset of the design development and not appear as an add on. However it shall not be over-literal or too concerned with an 'accurate' reflection of the 'past'. Whilst rooted in the historic cultural narratives, representations incorporated in the design shall be capable of multiple readings and a plurality of meanings.

Visitors to any of the areas of new public realm will be able to navigate the space and understand its context and relationship to other sites and the stories being told. This requires a uniform voice and identity that is consistent across all sites. This unique identifier needs to be both integrated into the landscape design as well as into other forms of engagement that make reference to the heritage of the Thames. This will be initiated at the early stages of design development to embed the identity to stimulate awareness, interest and association so that in the longer-term the vision of reconnecting with the river will be achieved.

Application of Narratives to Design

- Design, layout and form of new public realm shall be cogniscent of historic site land uses, building forms, axes and grain, both on the site and adjacent to it;
- Materials shall be used to make reference to the history and narrative of the site, while respecting the surrounding townscape character;
- Furniture, fencing or railings, while keeping in character with the surrounding townscape, shall be used as a vehicle to express the site narrative;
- Lighting could be used to accent narrative aspects of the landscape design;
- Planting could be used to express the site narrative, however long-term maintenance may limit the application of this;
- Signage/Signature to be integrated within the landscape design;
- Integration of public art.

To ensure compliance with the DCO, the Design Principles and the Heritage Interpretation Strategy, a project internal design submission process requires prior Tideway Project Manager acceptance of all design and technical submissions the main works contractors issue for Consent Granting Body approval.



tunnel/map/draw, Joy Gerrard, Pauls Walk, City of London. (2016)

Public Art

A Public Art Strategy (PAS) has been developed to provide the mechanism to deliver the heritage interpretation strategy via commissions integrated with the landscape design. The approach to the PAS is informed by the overarching project vision to reconnect London, and Londoners, with the River Thames, by "turning back to face the river".

Key objectives of the public art programme are to:

- Create unique artworks that express the transformational importance of the Thames Tideway Tunnel for London and its relationship with the river;
- Enhance the high quality public spaces and experience of the river for Londoners and visitors.

Artists will be appointed to work alongside contractor design teams. Together they will develop site-specific design proposals, within a common conceptual approach, that integrates landscape and representational elements in response to heritage themes and narratives. It is important that the storytelling aspect of the overall design composition is clear and understandable.

Careful consideration will be given to the scope and scale of artistic and landscape representations at individual

sites. Nuanced, subtle and ephemeral design responses, rather than 'iconic' statement pieces, are likely to be more powerfully resonant of the spirit of the river and of the narratives and themes set out in this Strategy.

For each site a conceptual design approach shall be defined that balances:

- The artistic practice of the artist/designer/landscape architect;
- The physical, psychological and allegorical (River of Liberty) qualities of the river;
- Reference to the specific site and cultural meander narratives;
- The relationship of tunnel infrastructure to its changing local context;
- The materiality and methods of production of the landscaped public realm.

The Interpretive Artwork commissions will be developed through the interpretive design assurance process in parallel with the overall architecture and landscape proposals for each site.

Thames Discovery Programme

Tideway supports the work of the Museum of London Thames Discovery Programme (TDP), an award winning community archaeology project that aims to communicate an understanding and enjoyment of the historic Thames to the widest possible audience. The two organisations will work together to increase the impact of Tideway's public outreach to leave a lasting legacy. This will be achieved through the Senior Community Archaeologist (Tideway Heritage Interpretation). The priority will be to deliver a programme of engagement with school-age children, young people and local communities that will specifically reference the Heritage Interpretation Strategy and the 'River of Liberty' theme.

Development and delivery of educational content to the widest possible audience will be achieved across four key initiatives:

- A schools programme for Key Stage 2 and 3 school children, which has particular reference to the sites and themes outlined in the Heritage Interpretation Strategy. This includes classroom and foreshore sessions and will be supported by online resources;
- The development and delivery of the Tadpoles (foreshore training) programme (8-17 yr olds);
- Supporting the existing Foreshore Recording and Observation Group (FROG);
- An extensive programme of community outreach events.

Education

Heritage related education improves life opportunities, consistent with the Liberty theme, and contributes to Tideway Legacy and DCO commitments:

- The Tideway Legacy commitment to People:
 - providing teaching and learning resources;
 - a volunteer STEM ambassador programme.
- The Project Overarching Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (OAWSI) Section 11.3 *Heritage Interpretation and Outreach Opportunities* states the project commitment to activities such as presentations, school activities, media coverage, web-based initiatives, as well as the permanent heritage interpretation at relevant sites.

In addition to the TDP initiative the Interpretation Strategy will also contribute to Tideway's wider education commitments by providing access to various heritage learning resources, including digital material accessed via Tunnelworks (<http://www.tunnelworks.co.uk>). The content

of the Tideway Tunnelworks portal includes specific heritage focussed classroom based resources for teachers, Londoners and anyone interested in the Thames.

Additional information about new discoveries and the stories of the

Thames will be incorporated on Tunnelworks. This new content will be curated and reinterpreted through the Tideway/TDP education programme. This growing educational resource, with links to the full TDP archive, will share knowledge with the widest audience possible.



FROGs at Cannon Street
© TDP Helen Johnston

Current arrangements under development by Tideway and their education consultants EBC include, but are not limited to:

- The development of Key Stage 2 curriculum teaching resources focussed on the social and economic context of local historic buildings;
- The development of Key Stage 3 curriculum teaching resources focussed on the cultural impact of historic population movements, specifically the long-term effect of 17th century Huguenot communities (Sir Joseph Bazalgette was of Huguenot descent) on the economic, social and urban development of London;
- The development of contractor input to the Tideway STEM ambassador programme.

Crossness Pumping Station

Tideway is also supporting the Crossness Engines Trust plans to complete landscaping and the installation of an exhibition exploring the history of the Pumping Station. The Trust's education objective of opening the historic buildings to visitors complements the Tideway Interpretation proposals.

It offers a valuable contribution to the Tideway Heritage Interpretation Strategy by specifically examining the history of the Metropolitan Board of Works Main Sewer scheme. The Interpretation Strategy has taken this into account and avoids duplication of the narrative themes developed by

the Trust for their exhibition, so that it complements, rather than conflicts, with those identified for Tideway sites.

Tideway is providing exhibition materials that will help the Trust explain the importance of the Crossness site, the role of the Metropolitan Board of Works, the history of urban sanitation, its impact on disease and the life of Sir Joseph Bazalgette.

Tideway Website

An Arts & Heritage section of the existing Tideway website will facilitate the wider dissemination of the Heritage Interpretation Strategy and its outputs. It will provide the stories behind the artworks and landscape design and provide the detailed site narratives and results of archaeological investigations. It could also provide a platform for audio/visual stories of the individual sites, told by local people, specialists, artists, river users etc. It could further provide a platform for the Tideway Artist in Residence, new poetry, theatre or music specifically curated for the Project and informed by the Heritage Interpretation Strategy.

Mobile Web application

A mobile app could be developed to tell the stories of the Thames. This would be done in partnership with other organisations such as the Port of London Authority and Museum of London. The app would be aimed at visitors to individual (former work) sites seeking information about the art or landscape or history of the site who could access site specific information through use of tools such as QR codes. It would also be developed to be relevant to river users who interact with the new public realm and river walls in a different way to other users.

Exhibitions

The Strategy recognises that, should appropriate partner organisations approach Tideway, there may be additional opportunities to place heritage interpretation displays within gallery or museum settings and other venues.

Tideway will consider future collaboration should opportunities arise.



Sir Joseph Bazalgette

1865 Crossness Pumping Station
© London Illustrated News/ Mary Evans Picture Library

Publications

Archaeological Research and Technical Reports

Various technical archaeological reports will be produced that will contribute to a Tideway legacy that advances knowledge and understanding.

Tideway will review arrangements for the preparation of a post-excavation assessment once all mitigation works have been completed across an individual section of the tunnel

route (West, Central & East). It is envisaged that site specific or project wide post-excavation reports will be prepared to assess the archaeological finds and propose a suitable strategy for undertaking analysis and publication.

Publication and dissemination

The scope of publication, outreach and dissemination, including popular forms of publication, will be regularly reviewed in light of opportunities to share new knowledge that arise during analysis.



Ships nails on the foreshore



River Postman – from 1800 to 1952 the Pool of London had a dedicated river post man © British Postal Museum and Archive

Communications / Storytelling

The Interpretation Strategy will help inform the Communications Strategy for Tideway and act as a catalyst for wider associated engagement.

To ensure that the project's delivery creates a lasting legacy, part of which will be judged by the overall reputation of the project once it is delivered, it is necessary to engage with communities at all levels throughout the process.

A key part of this process will be to communicate with those affected by construction activity in a way that is appropriate to local circumstances and opportunities.

Another role of communications is to build a broad public awareness of the scale and complexity of the engineering challenge involved in delivering the project and to put this in the context of Sir Joseph Bazalgette's achievements in masterminding the city's modern day sewerage network.



Agnes Nicks, from Highgate swam from Teddington Lock to Waterloo Bridge and back to Twickenham Ferry, a distance of c.40miles. 1929 © Planet News / Science & Society Picture Library

The Heritage Interpretation Strategy provides a rich source of narrative to help connect with people and bring to life the overall value of the project and the individual work sites. This could manifest itself in a range of ways:

- Media events
- Social media
- Performance
- Community consultation /engagement workshops
- Hoarding design
- Exhibitions
- Thames Festival

Through sharing the stories and telling themes set out in the Interpretation Strategy Tideway can help people value the historic environment as an important community resource.

An example of this approach can be seen in the naming of the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs). It is traditional to name these after women and Tideway propose to use material within the Heritage Interpretation Strategy narratives to identify historic female figures who have contributed to their local area, individuals that may previously have been overlooked and less familiar to the local communities that will decide on the final names.



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